THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS [MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI]: (a) to (c) This Ministry is responsible for maintenance and development of National Highways. Srinagar-Bandipur road is not a National Highway. Its condition and usage by transffic is not being monitored by Ministry. The repair of this road will not be undertaken by Ministry.

Road projects in Rajasthan

1680. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMED KHAN (DURRU): Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of road projects of Rajasthan including the proposal of widening of Jaipur-Agra road to 4 lanned highways, which are pending with Government for approval/clearance;

(b) the reasons for the delay in according approval; and

(c) the measures contemplated to expedite the clearance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS [MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI]: (a) to (c) Seventh projects relating to National Highways included in the current Annual Plan amounting to Rs. 23.63 crores received from Rajasthan State PWD are under scrutiny in the Ministry since January 2003. The approval of National Highway projects in the Ministry is subject to the prescribed limit of Bank of Sanction and *inter-se*-priority. Processing of these projects has not been delayed.

Sanction for Feasibility Study and Preparation of Detailed Project Report for 4/6-laning of Agra-Jaipur Road (NH-11) has been accorded by the Ministry.

Bridge linking Talaimannar and Dhanushkodi

1681. SHRI C.P. THIRUNAVUKKARASU: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are examining the proposal to construct a bridge linking Talaimannar and Dhanushkodi prepared by the Board of Investment of Sri Lanka;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when a decision is expected?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS [MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI]: (a) to (c) The proposal of construction of a bridge linking Talaimannar and Dhanushkodi between Sri Lanka and India is at conceptual stage and therefore no further details can be given at this stage.

Collapse of bridge at NH-6 in West Bengal

1682. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a 250 Ft. span of railway over bridge under construction by NHAI on NH-6 at Pakuria in Howrah District of West Bengal had collapsed on the 29th June, 2001;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the casualties, extent of damage and the financial loss; and

(c) the reasons therefor and the agencies responsible for the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS [MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI]: (a) One span of road-over-bridge under construciton on National Highway-6 in West Bengal collapsed on 29th January, 2003, and not on 29th June, 2001.

(b) and (c) This span which was under construction collapsed due to the failure of the staging material. One person died and 4 persons got minor injuries. As per the agreement, the cost of restoring the damaged span and consequential repairs will be borne by the contractor. Preliminary enquiry report indicated that the collapse was due to the removal of some bracing by the contractors for their use in the adjoining span and weakening of foundation soil. Detailed reasons for failure and agencies responsible will be known only on receipt of the final report of the Committee.